

# NEWS

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**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.**  
**Washington, D. C. 20554**

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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## **FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AUTHORIZES VERIZON TO PROVIDE LONG DISTANCE SERVICE IN VIRGINIA**

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that it voted to approve Verizon's application to provide in-region, interLATA service originating in Virginia. Approval of Verizon's application promises benefits to consumers in Virginia by making increased competition in all markets for telecommunications services possible.

Verizon stated in its application that competing carriers served approximately 763,000 lines, as of June 2002, which accounted for approximately 22% of the total lines in the state.

With the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act), Congress envisioned fundamental, pro-competitive changes in the telecommunications markets by making a Bell Operating Company's (BOC) entry into the long distance market subject to the BOC first opening its local service monopoly to competition. A BOC satisfies this contingency by demonstrating compliance with section 271 of the 1996 Act. After a BOC files a section 271 long distance application with the FCC, the FCC has 90 days to determine whether a BOC has taken the statutorily required steps to open its local telecommunications markets to competition, including compliance with the 1996 Act's section 271 14-point "competitive checklist."

Since the passage of the 1996 Act, the FCC has now approved applications to provide in-region, long distance service in 23 states and denied five long distance applications. Additionally, applications for 16 states have been withdrawn. Currently, there are section 271 applications for 12 states – BellSouth's joint application for Tennessee and Florida, SBC's application for California and Qwest's joint application for Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming – pending before the Commission. A summary of all section 271 applications can be accessed at the following FCC web page:

[www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common\\_Carrier/in-region\\_applications/](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/in-region_applications/)

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The FCC emphasizes that Verizon must continue to comply with the section 271 checklist requirements, and the Commission has a number of enforcement tools at its disposal to ensure compliance, including imposing penalties or suspension of approval.

-FCC-

Docket No.: WC 02-214

Action by the Commission October 30, 2002, by Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 02-297). Commissioners Copps and Martin approving in part, concurring in part, and issuing separate statements.

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News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found on the Commission's web site [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).